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BERKSHIRE

WALLINGFORD AND WANTAGE DISTRICTS
JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1956

WALLINGFORD AND WANTAGE DISTRICTS
JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

1956 — 1957

WALLINGFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

A. C. LESTER, The Triangle, Wantage Road, Wallingford.
H. WALTERS, Highgrove, Station Road, Wallingford.

WANTAGE URBAN DISTRICT

A. DOWSE, Broadway Villa, Wallingford Street, Wantage.
A. T. EVANS (*Chairman*), Lark Hill Farm, Wantage.

WALLINGFORD RURAL DISTRICT

MRS. N. M. BOSLEY, Icknield, 190 Broadway, Didcot.
J. M. DIPPER, 60 Park Road, Didcot.
H. T. MERRITT (*Vice-Chairman*), 54 Foxall Road, Didcot.

WANTAGE RURAL DISTRICT

S. J. EDWARDS, Thorndown, Compton.
W. J. SMITH, School House, Harwell.
M. F. TURNER-BRIDGER, The Turnpike House, Blewbury.

BERKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

J. L. SALE, C.I.E., Priors Hold, Wantage.
A. G. WALTER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Littleholme, Thames Street,
Wallingford.

Clerk to the Committee

G. V. SPOONER, 60 Bath Street, Abingdon.

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
WALLINGFORD.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
WALLINGFORD AND WANTAGE DISTRICTS
JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I take pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1956 compiled in accordance with the directions of the Minister of Health.

It should be pointed out that every doctor practising in the area receives a copy of this report and I feel sure they will appreciate the statistical returns because they provide some measure of their prodigious efforts throughout the year.

VITAL STATISTICS

POPULATION

The home population of the Combined Districts as estimated by the Registrar General at mid-year 1956 showed an increase of 580 on the 1955 figures. Each district shows an increase; the greatest being in the Wantage Rural.

The excess of births over deaths was 169, a decrease of 26 on the previous year's figures.

District	Area in Acres	Estimated 1954	Mid-year 1955	Population 1956	Difference
Wallingford Borough	760	3710	3740	3750	+ 10
Wantage Urban	2797	5520	5560	5600	+ 40
Wallingford Rural	21790	16330	16610	16790	+ 180
Wantage Rural	74181	15460	15030	15380	+ 350
Total	99528	41020	40940	41520	+ 580

BIRTHS

LIVE BIRTHS

Only in the Wantage Urban District is the corrected birth rate lower than the rate for England and Wales. The other districts show an increase on the 1955 rates.

District	No. of Live Births			1955	Live Birth Rate per 1000 pop.	Corrected Birth rate per 1000
	Male	Female	Total			
Wallingford Borough	26	35	61		16.3	16.1
Wantage Urban	43	45	88		15.7	14.4
Wallingford Rural	140	151	291		17.3	18.0
Wantage Rural	152	156	308		20.0	19.8
Combined Districts	361	387	748		18.0	
England and Wales						15.6

STILL BIRTHS

The still birth rate for the Combined Districts was lower than that for 1955 and considerably lower than the rate of 23 for England and Wales.

District	Number of Stillbirths			Stillbirth rate		
	1954	1955	1956	1954	1955	1956
Wallingford Borough	3	2	2			
Wantage Urban	1	3	2			
Wallingford Rural	8	4	6			
Wantage Rural	2	6	4			
Total	14	15	14	18.1	20.5	18.4
England and Wales						23.0

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS

5.8% of all births were illegitimate, compared to 3.2% in 1955.

District	Number of Illegitimate Births per annum				
	1938	1945	1952	1955	1956
Wallingford Borough	3	5	5	2	4
Wantage Urban	3	17	5	1	3
Wallingford Rural	11	26	21	12	16
Wantage Rural	7	30	15	8	21
Total	24	78	46	23	44

DEATHS

In the past the Registrar General supplied a "comparability factor" for each district which only allowed for their different age and sex distribution but did not account for the presence of any residential institutions. At long last and not before its time due allowance has been made for these. The result is immediately very striking. The crude death rate of Wallingford Borough for 1956 was 44 and on correction it drops to 8.8. The corrected rates for all the districts are lower than the national figure of 11.7.

For the benefit of a certain daily newspaper only corrected death rates can be compared with the rate for England and Wales. This particular paper quoted the 1955 death rate of Wallingford Borough (34.0) as being the highest in England and Wales and the resulting implication was that it was an unhealthy spot. They did not bother to state this figure was the crude death rate, what the corrected rate was and that the Borough had probably more Residential Institutional accommodation for old people per head of the population than any other town in England.

CAUSES OF DEATH

(AMENDED REGISTRAR GENERAL'S RETURNS)

Causes	Wallingford Borough		Wantage U.D.		Wallingford R.D.		Wantage R.D.		C'bined Districts Total
	M. F.	Total	M. F.	Total	M. F.	Total	M. F.	Total	
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	1 1	3
Tuberculosis, Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	1	1 2	—	—	1	— 1	3
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	1 2	1	— 1	3	2 5	2	1 3	11
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	— 3	1	1 2	4	— 4	4	1 5	14
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	2 2	—	1 1	—	1 1	—	5 5	9
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1 1	—	1 1	—	2 2	—	—	4
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	10	4 14	4	— 4	11	4 15	8	2 10	43
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—	—	1	1 2	—	—	2
Diabetes	—	—	—	—	1	— 1	—	—	1
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	14	27 41	6	6 12	16	12 28	6	15 21	102

Coronary disease, angina	12	5	17	4	3	7	13	13	26	11	7	18	68
Hypertension with heart disease	—	—	—	1	3	4	4	4	8	—	3	3	15
Other heart diseases	6	9	15	5	3	8	32	31	63	6	10	16	102
Other circulatory diseases	9	4	13	2	1	3	2	4	6	—	5	5	27
Influenza	7	2	9	—	1	1	—	—	—	4	—	4	14
Pneumonia	8	4	12	—	1	1	8	7	15	5	2	7	35
Bronchitis	2	1	3	1	1	2	5	2	7	7	2	9	21
Other diseases of the respiratory system	2	—	2	—	1	1	—	1	1	1	—	1	5
Ulcers of stomach and duodenum	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3	1	—	1	4
Gastritis enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	1	2	—	2	5
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—	2	1	—	1	2	—	2	2	—	2	7
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	2	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	11	14	25	3	7	10	6	10	16	2	2	4	55
Motor vehicle accidents	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	3
All other accidents	—	—	—	1	3	4	4	—	4	1	4	5	13
Suicide	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	3	1	4	6
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	90	75	165	32	35	67	119	96	215	70	62	132	579

	No. deaths 1956			Crude death rate per 1000 pop.		Corrected death rate	
	M.	F.	Total	1955	1956	1955	1956
Wallingford Borough	90	75	165	34.0	44.0	23.1	8.8
Wantage Urban	32	35	67	9.0	12.0	7.7	9.1
Wallingford Rural	119	96	215	13.8	12.8	13.8	9.1
Wantage Rural	70	62	132	7.7	8.6	7.6	9.3
Total	311	268	579	12.8	13.9		
England and Wales						11.7	11.7

The number of deaths from lung cancer and cardiovascular diseases showed little change compared to 1955.

INFANT MORTALITY

With fewer deaths in infants under 12 months the infant mortality rate for 1955 was reduced to a level below that for England and Wales. Of the 15 deaths, 13 occurred in the neonatal period, i.e. during the first four weeks of life.

	No. of Infant Deaths (under 12 mths.)		Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 live births	
	1955	1956	1955	1956
Wallingford Borough	3	—		
Wantage Urban	2	4		
Wallingford Rural	8	6		
Wantage Rural	10	5		
Total	23	15	32	20
England and Wales			24.9	23.8

MATERNAL MORTALITY

For the fifth successive year no deaths were attributable to pregnancy, childbirth or abortion which surely bears testimony to the skill of the midwives, general practitioners and hospital staffs.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Notifiable Disease	Wal'f'd Wantage		Wal'f'd Wantage		Total	
	Borough	U.D.	R.D.	R.D.	1956	1955
Measles	1	5	1	17	24	757
Whooping Cough	3	13	23	43	82	99
Scarlet Fever	—	1	6	4	11	11
Pneumonia	—	1	3	5	9	12
Food poisoning	55	—	1	6	62	15
Dysentery	2	—	5	—	7	5
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	—	—	1	—	1	3
Non- „ „	—	—	—	—	—	1
Puerpural Pyrexia	2	—	1	—	3	5
Erysipelas	—	—	4	—	4	6
Meningococcal meningitis	1	—	—	—	1	—
Pneumococcal meningitis	—	—	1	—	1	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis	—	—	—	1	1	2
Malaria Benign Tertian	—	—	2	—	2	—
Ophthalmia Neonotorum	—	—	2	—	2	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	2	14	10	28	39
Non- „ „	—	1	4	3	8	6
Total	66	23	68	89	246	961

So far as the common infectious diseases are concerned 1956 was a good year.

FOOD POISONING

Each year brings the usual outbreak of food poisoning, but 1956 provided one of considerable interest.

This particular outbreak occurred amongst the inmates and staff of St. Mary's Hospital, Wallingford and in all 54 people were affected. The attack was mild lasting 24 to 48 hours and there were no deaths. Bacteriological investigations proved the cause of the outbreak to be due to heat resistant *Clostridium Welchii*. It was thought that minced meat cooked the previous evening, cooled slowly overnight and reheated the next day had been the vehicle of infection as it was the only item of food common to all cases but no organisms were isolated from two samples of the remaining part of the meal.

Further investigations of the kitchen staff located a healthy carrier of *Clostridium Welchii* who did not partake of the same

meal. This part-time kitchen help, the mother of a problematical family with whom I was already well acquainted, handled the meat during its preparation, had contact after it was cooked but did not assist in the serving of the meal.

Attention was ultimately focused on the carrier's family with interesting and unexpected results. The husband and two children were positive for *Clostridium Welchii*, whilst the third child was positive for *Shigella Sonnei*. Further bacteriological investigations showed the family to carry *Clostridium Welchii* for some time, the child with *Shigella Sonnei* reverting to *Clostridium Welchii*. Two months passed before the whole family were negative by which time the mother and one child were carrying *Salmonella Typhi-Murium*. The father was a pigman and the presence of rats in the vicinity was also noted at the same time. Efforts had been made in the past to improve this family's standard of living but frequent moves and changes of employment coupled with little effort at co-operation made the case an extremely difficult one.

It would be unwise to conclude that the carrier was the cause of the outbreak in this instance although highly probable. The meat itself, presuming it was the vehicle of infection, could already have been infected on arrival from the butcher or it could have been infected by blow flies.

The outbreak itself proved the difficulty in controlling carriers who can obtain part-time employment in canteen and catering establishments without going through the employment exchange.

DYSENTERY

Dysentery notifications only represent a small portion of the annual number of cases in the community. Being a relatively mild disease many isolated cases go undetected.

POLIOMYELITIS

There was only one case of poliomyelitis in the Combined Districts.

The Registrar General's returns for 1956 listed a death in the Wantage Urban District as being due to Acute Poliomyelitis. As no cases had been notified in this district more details were sought and it was found to allude to the death of a male infant of one week, from Wantage in an Oxford Hospital; the cause of death being given as Acute Polio-encephalitis, following a post mortem. The Inward Transferable Death slip of this case gave Meningitis as the cause of death, so it was decided to consult the Medical

Registrar and if possible see the case records. Having done this it became apparent to me that the diagnosis of Acute-poliomyelitis was based on the findings of the histologist without sufficient clinical evidence to substantiate it. I have therefore amended the cause of death of this under "other infective and parasitic diseases".

During 1956 a limited number of Poliomyelitis vaccinations were carried out in children born between 1947 and 1954. It is anticipated the scheme will be extended as more supplies of vaccine become available.

TUBERCULOSIS

The number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis showed a considerable reduction.

Arrangements were made for the visit to the area of the mobile Mass Radiography Unit in the early part of summer 1957.

B.C.G. vaccination of the 13-14 age group of children continued throughout the year.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

SMALLPOX VACCINATIONS, 1956

	Under 1 year	1—4 yrs.	5—14 yrs.	15 yrs. and over.	Total
Wallingford Borough					
Primary	63	5	2	2	72
Re-vaccination	—	—	1	7	8
Wallingford R.D.					
Primary	143	14	5	12	174
Re-vaccination	—	—	6	16	22
Wantage U.D.					
Primary	76	8	1	1	86
Re-vaccination	—	4	4	17	25
Wantage R.D.					
Primary	128	16	6	15	165
Re-vaccination	—	2	4	17	23
Total	410	49	29	87	575

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION, 1956

	Under 1 year	1—4 yrs.	5—15 yrs.	Total
Wallingford Borough				
Primary	24	13	3	40
Booster	—	2	2	4
Wallingford R.D.				
Primary	141	70	3	214
Booster	—	7	11	18
Wantage U.D.				
Primary	39	14	2	55
Booster	—	4	4	8
Wantage R.D.				
Primary	112	45	12	169
Booster	—	4	5	9
Total	316	159	42	517

WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION, 1956

	Under 1 year	1—4 yrs.	5—15 yrs.	Total
Wallingford Borough				
Primary	45	12	—	57
Booster	—	1	5	6
Wallingford R.D.				
Primary	159	61	3	223
Booster	—	11	3	14
Wantage U.D.				
Primary	56	21	1	78
Booster	—	2	6	8
Wantage R.D.				
Primary	116	41	—	157
Booster	—	3	3	6
Total	376	152	21	549

HOUSING

Twelve years have elapsed since the war ended yet housing is still probably the greatest problem of most district councils today. Much of a public health department's time is taken up on this and as often a valuable portion of a general practitioner's time too. The plain truth is that we still do not have enough housing of a reasonable standard for the needs of the people.

Some families move from one part of the country to another with changes of jobs to better themselves. However before contemplating such moves they rarely consider housing accommodation and any improvement in their financial position is offset by a deterioration in their living conditions which may reflect itself adversely amongst their children in future years.

SMOKING AND LUNG CANCER

You may recall in my 1955 Annual Report I advocated the introduction of lectures to school children warning them of the dangers associated with smoking. Many others have since pronounced similar advice and have been quoted widely in the press. At long last the Minister of Health has joined the fray and has placed the onus for a publicity and educational campaign on local authorities. We trust their actions will not be governed by the proportion of "nicotine addicts" amongst their members.

The smoking habits of boys in a certain secondary school recently published were extremely startling and the headmaster's statement to the effect that his pupils were no worse than any other similar school even more so.

There are some people including (I regret) members of the medical profession who bitterly oppose the hypothesis that there is a relationship between smoking and lung cancer. They demand experimental proof. In a suspect Diphtheria would they await bacteriological proof from the laboratory before giving anti-serum? The plain fact is the majority of them are addicted to smoking and like any drug addict will contest any effort which has as its objective the curtailment of their pleasure.

Any illness however slight and a distaste for cigarettes to which smokers often admit, provide a favourable opportunity for relinquishing the habit. The only requirement after that, is a little will power. *The final decision rests in the hands of the individual.*

ACCIDENTS IN THE HOME

The greater portion of accidents in the home occur during the winter months especially falls, burns, scalds and poisoning. This calls for extra special care in the protection of the very young and the elderly during this dangerous period.

Here I must emphasise the large part gas poisoning plays in accidental deaths of old people and in view of this to ask if it is fair to continue postponing the electrification of old council houses whose tenants desire it in place of gas on the grounds of economy. Those responsible for such decisions should watch the efforts of some old age pensioners to light gas jets.

CARE OF INFANTS AND CHILDREN

Recently I read of the tragic death of an infant from choking by the teat of a feeding bottle. This is by no means an infrequent occurrence. Liability to this accident would of course have been removed if the mother had only spared the few minutes to feed the baby herself instead of leaving it on its own. The same sort of tragedy could easily happen in this area where it is extremely common to see unattended babies in prams sucking away at feeding bottles.

How are we to curtail this habit? Firstly health visitors and midwives must impress on the mother the danger of this practice and secondly the press should give more publicity to the reports of coroner's inquests on such cases. Usually these are restricted to a few lines whereas a sordid murder is allocated the greater part of a page.

CHILDREN LEFT ALONE

Some parents think nothing of leaving their young children alone at home while they go out. It is tragic that accidents to these unfortunate children often provide the only proof of the parents' negligence.

IMPACT OF TELEVISION

We often hear the cinema or television being blamed for the bad behaviour or even maladjustment of certain children but in many instances this is unfair. Parents on the whole are loathe to blame themselves for their children's shortcomings. I know a girl aged four who often watches television till eleven o'clock at night. The same girl when playing with another recently demanded

some cord and rag and on being asked the reason for such request said it was for playing murder, the former to tie her playmate's hands behind the back and the latter to gag her. Would one blame television for this child's sadistic actions which one day could easily end in tragedy?

HEALTH AND THE FUTURE

There is no doubt the health of the child population today is much better than it was fifty years ago but there must be room for further improvement. At a recent examination of entrants to an infant's school I found 10 out of 132 had a defect of the lungs. Does it lie in our province to prevent some of this morbidity? All too often we find the new born infant being nursed in an atmosphere reeking of stale tobacco with barely a window open. Nobody would dream of putting old used oil into a new engine and the same applies to the air for an infants' lungs. The benefits bestowed by nature are not always readily accepted and finally it becomes the lot of the family doctor to correct the deficiency by a magic bottle of medicine.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Here I must record my debts of gratitude to the Joint Health Committee who at all times are most understanding; to the Public Health Inspectors whose change of name from Sanitary Inspectors during the year does not mean that their tasks are any the less arduous; to the County Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Huddy, who is always ready to discuss any problems; to Dr. Jebb and the staff of the Public Health Laboratory, Oxford, for the many necessary laboratory investigations and finally to the medical practitioners of the area for their valued help and co-operation.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E. M. HAMILTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

WALLINGFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

WATER SUPPLY

The whole of the dwelling houses in the Borough are supplied with water from the Corporation's Water Undertaking.

The supply is obtained from five boreholes, at the Waterworks in Station Road.

Although the supply has been adequate during the year, pressures in the higher parts of the town have been low at times of peak demand. The Council has under consideration schemes to improve pressures and to provide an emergency supply in case of possible failure at the Waterworks. It is anticipated that the necessary works will be carried out in 1957. Eighteen samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination. Fourteen samples were satisfactory but four samples showed slight contamination.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The new joint sewerage scheme came into operation in September 1956 and sewage from the whole of the Borough is now pumped to the Wallingford R.D.C.'s disposal works at Cholsey for treatment. As a result, the old Sewage Farm on Moreton Road has now fallen into disuse and a considerable nuisance has thereby been abated.

REFUSE COLLECTION

The weekly kerbside collection of house refuse has been maintained satisfactorily throughout the year.

For the first few months of the year tipping was continued in a gravel pit at Ewelme, but it became increasingly difficult to maintain the tip in a reasonable condition and there was considerable nuisance from flies and rodents. The Corporation entered into an agreement with the Wallingford R.D.C. to use their tip, and this arrangement has proved to be extremely satisfactory.

RODENT CONTROL

	<i>Visits</i>	<i>Re-visits</i>
Dwelling Houses	40	185
Local Authority Premises	21	181
Business Premises	3 Inspections	
Agricultural Premises	2 Inspections	
Sewers	Exempt until 1957	

MILK SUPPLIES

Two dairies in the Borough are registered for the retail sale of milk.

The total number of designated licences in force is as follows:

1 Tuberculin Tested, 2 Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) and 1 Pasteurised, 3 Supplementary licences.

ICE CREAM

Fifteen premises in the Borough are registered for the sale of ice cream, and one registered for manufacture.

FOOD PREMISES

TYPES OF BUSINESS

(a)	Butchers	8
(b)	Grocers	9
(c)	Fried Fish Shops	2
(d)	Fishmongers (including 2 under c above)	3
(e)	Greengrocers	6
(f)	Cafes (including 1 under d above) . . .	7
(g)	Hotels catering for non-residents . . .	5
(h)	Bakers (including 1 under b above) . . .	5

PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER SECT. 16 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

(a)	Sale of Ice Cream	14
(b)	Manufacture of Ice Cream	1
(c)	Manufacture of Sausages	8

INSPECTION OF REGISTERED FOOD PREMISES

Thirty-five inspections of registered food premises have been carried out.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY—FOOD HYGIENE

No educational activity in relation to clean food has taken place during the year.

METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD

All fresh meat condemned is sprayed with liquid acid green and destroyed. All condemned tinned food is disposed of by the Local Authority with their refuse.

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS, 1947-52

All premises selling and manufacturing ice cream in the Borough comply with the Regulations.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955-56

Substantial progress has taken place in complying with these Regulations, and structural alterations are in progress at several premises.

BAKEHOUSES

There are five bakehouses in the Borough. All have been inspected and found satisfactory. Samples of imported dried egg were taken for bacteriological examination and found to be satisfactory.

HOUSING AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Three houses were demolished during the year as a result of demolition orders. The occupants of one caravan were housed and the caravan removed from its site.

Fifteen houses were erected by the Borough Council during the year.

Six houses were erected by private enterprise.

Work commenced on a new estate of 122 houses for the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, and it is expected that the estate will be substantially completed in 1957.

PUBLIC BATHS

The Borough Council own and maintain an open-air swimming pool and a paddling pool at the Riverside park near Wallingford Bridge. In addition they provide facilities for river bathing on the same site.

The water supply for the swimming and paddling pools is obtained from the river Thames, and the pools are emptied, cleaned and refilled once a week. The water is chlorinated. The Council have decided to sink a borehole in order to provide a constant supply of pure water to the pools, and it is anticipated that this scheme will be operating in the 1957 season.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Slaughtering is carried on at two slaughterhouses in the Borough.

The following table gives details of carcases and offal inspected.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	256	5	56	241	313
Number inspected	256	5	56	241	313
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	1	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	16	—	2	9	12
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	6.2	—	3.5	4.1	4.4
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	11	—	—	—	4
Percentage of which some part or organ was condemned	4.3	—	—	—	1.3
<i>Cysticercosis</i>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

The following amounts of unsound food were also inspected and voluntarily surrendered:

Tinned Foods	.	.	.	98 lbs.
Tinned Livers	.	.	.	50 lbs.
Fresh Beef	.	.	.	64 lbs.
Fresh Fish	.	.	.	9 lbs.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1938

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1.—INSPECTIONS

	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	25	12	—	—
(ii) Factories not in- cluded in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	14	7	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	39	19	—	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

	Number of cases in which defects were found		Referred		No. of cases in which
	Found	Remedied	To HM Inspector	By HM Inspector	prosecut'ns instituted
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	5	—	3	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	5	5	—	3	—

WANTAGE URBAN DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLIES

130 lineal yards of 6" and 170 lineal yards of 4" spun iron water main were laid to provide for new housing development at Stockham Housing Estate.

The supply of water from the Council's boreholes was found adequate to meet all demands.

6 samples of water were obtained for bacteriological examination all of which were placed in Class 1 of the Ministry of Health's grading.

1 sample of water was obtained for chemical analysis. The water is of high chemical purity but it is extremely hard being in the order of 310 parts per million.

SEWERAGE

A section of deep sewer has been constructed off Denchworth Road for the eventual drainage of all the Stockham area and the Wantage Rural District Council's proposed housing development at the Urban Council's western boundary.

A scheme for the construction of new sewers in sections of the town where sewage is at present conveyed in old and defective culverts has been provisionally approved but construction work has been deferred due to cuts in capital expenditure.

Experiments in the use of Aluminium Chlorohydrate for dehydrating sludge at the sewage works were not successful and owing to the difficulties experienced in drying the sludge additional sludge drying beds will have to be constructed when circumstances permit.

REFUSE COLLECTION

The weekly collection of house refuse from all houses in the Urban area has been maintained throughout the year despite difficulties in obtaining the necessary labour for this work.

The disposal of refuse at the tip in Gypsy Lane, Grove, will be completed in approximately 7 to 8 months and approval has now been obtained for the use of a disused chalk pit off Red House Hill for this purpose.

RODENT CONTROL

Rodent treatment has been undertaken as follows: —

(a) Council owned houses	—
(b) Private houses	18
(c) Business premises	—
(d) Sewer manholes	64
(e) Refuse Tip	17

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

There is a site at the rear of Grove Street, licensed for 27 moveable dwellings. The sanitary and ablution arrangements are maintained in a very satisfactory condition and no action has been found necessary in this respect. Action has been taken to remedy overcrowding conditions in one moveable dwelling on the site.

Five moveable dwellings are situated in other parts of the area for which licences have been granted.

PRIVATE NURSING HOMES

There are no private nursing homes in the district.

HOUSING

	1955	1956
Number of permanent houses erected	8	6
Number of permanent houses erected by Local Authority	—	—
Number of permanent houses erected by Private Enterprises	8	6
Number of temporary houses erected	—	—
Number of families on Housing Lists	220	168

The selection of tenants is primarily by a points scheme.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

Number of persons dealt with under Section 47	Nil
Number of persons dealt with under Section 50	Nil

PUBLIC BATHS

Number in district—One.
Source of water—Mains supply.
How often emptied—Once weekly.
Method of purification—None.
Water samples taken—None.

Alterations and additions have been carried out with a view to improving the baths and changing facilities.

DISINFECTION OF PREMISES

Number of premises disinfected during the year—6.

Reason—At request of the occupiers.

LICENSED PREMISES

There are 19 Licensed premises in the area 13 of which have been inspected involving 35 visits. As a result improvements have been carried out to the Sanitary accommodation at 5 of these premises.

SHOPS ACT

Number of shops in the district	96
Number of shops inspected	77
Number of inspections	86

SLAUGHTERHOUSES, MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

There is one licensed Slaughterhouse in the area and licences to slaughter animals have been granted to six persons.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED & CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	153		37	315	262
Number inspected	153		37	315	262
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—		—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2		—	1	10
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	1.3		—	.31	3.8
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—		—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3		—	—	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	2.0		—	—	.38
<i>Cysticercosis</i>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—		—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—		—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—		—	—	—

The following items were found, on inspection at premises other than slaughterhouses, to be unfit for human consumption, and were voluntarily surrendered: —

3 tins Peaches, 2 tins Grapefruit, 2 tins Strawberries, 1 tin Prunes, 3 tins Orange Juice, 4 tins Milk, 2 tins Tomatoes, 1 tin Ox Tail Soup, 1 tin Ox Tongue, 3 tins Chopped Pork, 2 tins

Corned Beef, 1 tin Stewed Steak, 3 tins Luncheon Meat, 58½ lbs. Beef, 1 tin Salmon, 10 lbs. Lobsters, 1 tin Carrots, 6 tins Peas, 6 tins Beans.

Unsound meat is sterilised and used for animal food. Other unsound foods are buried under Council supervision.

FOOD AND CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

There are 50 food premises in the area as follows: —

Butchers	7
Wet Fish Shops	3
Fried Fish Shops	2
Grocers and General Stores	16
Greengrocers	4
Bakers and confectioners	2
Bakehouses	2
Sweet Shops	6
Hotels	4
Restaurants	4

42 of these premises have been inspected with a total of 68 visits. Informal action under the Food Hygiene regulations 1955-56 has been taken in respect of 3 catering establishments, 3 shops and 1 bakehouse.

ICE CREAM

18 premises are registered for the sale of ice cream under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. All licensed premises have been inspected during the year, the total number of visits being 37. The premises were found to be satisfactory in respect of the storage and sale of ice cream. 11 samples of ice cream were obtained, 3 were placed in provisional Grade (1) and 8 in provisional Grade (2).

MILK SUPPLIES

There are two retailers of milk in the district both of whom hold supplementary licences to sell Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested milk. There is one retail dairy in the district which is frequently inspected.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR DURING 1956:

Number of different premises inspected	223
Number of visits made	462
Number of complaints received	85
Number of defects or nuisances discovered	23
Number of nuisances abated	68
Number of Notices: Formal	—
Informal	21

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 & 1948

PART 1 OF THE ACT INSPECTIONS

	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written notices	Number of Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	16	14	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	14	17	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	2	4	—	—
Total	32	35	—	—

Cases in which defects were found—Nil.

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork—Nil.

WALLINGFORD RURAL DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLY

EXTENSIONS TO WATER SUPPLY

The Aston Tirrold Water Supply scheme was brought into commission during the summer of 1956.

This scheme comprises two boreholes with an automatically controlled pumping station, a reservoir and about 3 miles of 9" main to connect into the district reticulation system.

Other work on the water comprised small mains and services to supply new estates etc., being developed in the district.

SITUATION OF BOREHOLES, ETC.

1. WEST HAGBOURNE—This source comprises two wells from which water is pumped by automatically controlled plant.
2. ASTON TIRROLD—This is the new source referred to above.
3. SOUTH MORETON—This source comprises three boreholes from which water is pumped to an aerating plant and rapid gravity filters for the purpose of removing iron from the water. The water is then pumped by high lift pumps direct into the supply mains.
4. CHOLSEY—This is a small supply from which water is pumped direct into the supply mains by means of an automatically controlled pump.
5. WAR DEPARTMENT—The Council have an agreement with the War Department for emergency supplies of water as may be necessary in times of drought and other emergencies.
6. WINTERBROOK—The supply to the hamlet of Winterbrook adjacent to Wallingford Borough is supplied by a small bulk supply from Wallingford Corporation.

TREATMENT—The water is chlorinated at all station to .8 parts per million. The water from South Moreton is dosed with sodium hexemetaphosphate to assure stability.

RESERVOIRS. Service Reservoirs are at West Hagbourne Hill, Riddle Hill and Aston Tirrold.

GENERALLY

With the commissioning of the Aston Tirrold Supply there is a sufficiency of water and the South Moreton and Cholsey Stations are now on a care and maintenance basis.

SEWERAGE

During 1956 the Cholsey Sewerage Scheme was brought into commission. These works serve Wallingford Borough, Cholsey Village and the Fairmile Hospital.

Schemes have been prepared for sewerage and sewage disposal for the villages of: —

Aston Tirrold, Aston Upthorpe, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, North Moreton, South Moreton, Long Wittenham & Little Wittenham.

A scheme is in course of preparation for the extension of the Didcot Sewage Disposal Works now grossly overloaded and for certain modifications to the Didcot Sewers.

PUBLIC BATHS

There are two swimming baths in the district; one at the Shillingford Bridge Hotel, the other at the premises of the Wallingford Caravan Company at Shillingford Hill. The source of water in each case is from the Thames, and the baths are emptied as necessary. Purification is by the Chloretex method. To the best of my knowledge the pool at the premises of the Wallingford Caravan Co. was not in use during 1956.

REFUSE COLLECTION

Refuse collection is from the kerbside, once weekly. There are no charges for the removal of trade refuse. A fee of £1 per annum is charged for additional services in collecting from the back door, where sickness or long carry is involved. Disposal is by controlled tipping in disused gravel pits. Consolidation is by bull-dozer and valuable land is being reclaimed. The tip is in open country and no complaints have been received.

The continuous growth of Didcot and other villages is putting a heavy strain on the two vehicles and the staff, which are at present working to full capacity.

DISINFECTION OF PREMISES

During the year three houses were disinfected. Two disinfections related to cases of tuberculosis, the other to a case of cancer.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

A summary of the work done is outlined in the following tables: —

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written notices	Number of Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	6	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	32	40	3	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	36	46	4	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecut'ns
			Referred		
	Found	Remedied	To HM Inspector	By HM Inspector	
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	2	—	3	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	2	2	—	2	—
Total	6	5	—	6	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

	Nature of Work	No. of Workers				
Making of						
wearing apparel	1	—	—	—	—	—
Jewellery	8	—	—	—	—	—
Total	9	—	—	—	—	—

SHOPS AND CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

1. NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES IN THE DISTRICT

General Grocery 44, Greengrocers 8, Butchers 10, Confectioners 8, Chemists 4, Fish (Wet and Fried) 4, Cafes 4, Hotels with catering licences 7.

2. NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER SECT. 16, FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Manufacture of Ice Cream 2, Sale and Storage of Ice Cream 41, Manufacture of Sausages 6, Frying of Fish 4.

Number of Dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949-54, 3.

3. INSPECTIONS OF REGISTERED FOOD PREMISES

Approximately 100 inspections of registered food premises were made during 1956. See further comments under para. 8.

4. EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES, ETC.

There is no Clean Food Guild in this area. No lectures on food hygiene have been given to the trade or to the general public, but all premises where food is handled have been visited and hygiene discussed in detail.

5. DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD

Condemned food, apart from meat, is disposed of either by incineration or by burial on the Council's refuse tip. Condemned meat is collected from the slaughterhouses by approved contractors. Acid green is used for marking all meat unfit for human consumption.

6. SPECIAL EXAMINATION OF STOCKS OR CONSIGNMENTS OF FOOD

No special examinations of stocks or consignments of food have been necessary during the year.

7. ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS 1947-52

A reference to the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations has been made elsewhere in this report.

8. FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1955-56

On the introduction of the Food Hygiene Regulations with effect from 1st January, 1956, a copy of the relevant extracts from the regulations was delivered to every food premises in the area. This was followed by a personal visit by the deputy Public Health Inspector. As a result of these visits approximately 56 notices were served on various occupiers of food premises, drawing their attention to certain defects. The co-operation of the tradesmen in the observation of these regulations has been good, and most of the food premises in the district are now equipped to the standard required, and are complying with the provisions of the regulations.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are three private slaughterhouses in the area. No complaint is made concerning the management of these establishments. Meat inspection has been carried out at these slaughterhouses throughout the year, and up to 31st December, 1956, a standard of 100% inspection was maintained.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND MEAT CONDEMNED, 1956

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Goats
Number killed	293	18	136	807	1041	4
Number inspected	293	18	136	807	1041	4
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercus Bovis</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	1	2	—
Part carcasses or organs condemned	37	6	—	11	63	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected	12.6	33 $\frac{1}{3}$	—	1.5	6.2	—
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Part carcasses or organs condemned	4	3	—	—	28	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected	1.4	16.6	—	—	2.7	—
<i>Cysticercus Bovis</i>						
	—	—	—			

MILK SUPPLIES

The district is a Specified Area under the Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) Order of 1954. All milk retailed in the district is designated as follows: —

4 Retailers of Pasteurised and T.T. Past. Milk.

1 Producer/Retailer of Pasteurised and T.T. Past. Milk.

2 Producer/Retailers of T.T. Milk.

During the year, 49 samples of milk were taken and of these, two samples of T.T. milk, from one producer/retailer, failed to pass the Methylene Blue Reduction Test. This matter was referred to the County Milk Production Officer for Oxfordshire, who investigated the methods of production on the farm concerned. Later samples from this producer proved to be satisfactory. The same producer was warned for retailing T.T. milk in plain capped bottles.

ICE CREAM

During 1956 there were 41 premises registered for the sale and storage of ice cream. All these premises are equipped with refrigerators, thermostatically controlled. The ice cream is pre-packed. The standard of cleanliness in these premises was satisfactory.

There are also two premises in the district registered for the manufacture of ice cream, but only one of these manufacturers is producing at present. His premises are equipped with modern machinery, and his methods of production comply with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations. Samples of his product were taken during the year for bacteriological analysis, and all samples were satisfactory. See results below. No complaints were received concerning the standard of cleanliness of ice cream vehicles operating in the district.

RESULTS OF TESTS ON ICE CREAM SAMPLES:

Number of samples taken—4.

Results of samples: Grade 1—4.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

During the year two persons were buried by the Local Authority under the provisions of Section 50 of the above Act.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

There have been no complaints concerning atmospheric pollution during the year.

SANITARY CONDITION OF PUBLIC HOUSES

The sanitary condition of public houses in the district is satisfactory.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S WORK DURING 1956

During the year notices were served in respect of the following defects: —

General Housing defects	—	17
Drainage defects	—	9
Defects under Factories Acts	—	4
Defective dustbins	—	72
Food Hygiene regulations	—	56
General Nuisances	—	1

RODENT CONTROL

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT DURING 1956:

	<i>Treatment and Visits</i>	<i>Re-visits</i>
Dwelling Houses	203	809
Business Premises	1	3
Local Authority	25	115
Agricultural	Nil	Inspections 32
Sewers	Exempt until 1957	

WANTAGE RURAL DISTRICT

MILK

There are 15 distributors of milk, with 10 dairies, registered in the district. Inspections of these dairies have been carried out regularly throughout the year.

Licences permitting the sale of milk under Special Designations were in force during the year as follows: —

Tuberculin Tested	—	13
Pasteurised	—	10
Sterilised	—	2

During the year the District was included in the area specified by the 'Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No. 2) Order 1956'. The effect of this order is that none but designated milks may now be sold in the District. The one dairyman who was retailing undesignated milk brought his premises up to the standard required by the Berkshire County Council as the Licensing Authority, and a Tuberculin Tested licence was granted.

Samples of milk have been obtained regularly for testing and all have given satisfactory results.

Several complaints were received during the summer regarding dirty bottles from one retailer. As a result, the proprietors were interviewed and a re-arrangement of the inspection methods was carried out. No further complaints were received during the year.

CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

There are 75 catering establishments in the District. This number includes licensed premises. There is, in addition, one mobile snack bar regularly in use in the area.

49 visits have been made to these premises. Conditions have been found to be mainly satisfactory. Where it has been necessary to require changes to be made in techniques or minor alterations to be made to the premises owners have co-operated with the officers of the Council.

SHOPS

During the year the new Food Hygiene Regulations came into force. Subsequently, most of the shops selling food in the District were inspected.

22 applications were made for Certificates of Exemption under the Regulations. As a result, 8 certificates were granted and a

further 4 applicants were informed that a Certificate would be granted when domestic facilities were improved.

Advice concerning other aspects of food handling has been given where indicated and it has not been necessary for formal action to be taken in any instance.

BAKEHOUSES

Number in district	—	10
Number of inspections	—	21
Number of notices	—	Nil

ICE CREAM PREMISES

Number of dealers on register 54.

Three premises were registered for the first time during the year under review.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND BUTCHERS' SHOPS

4 Slaughterhouses and 1 Knacker's Yard are licensed and used in the District although the latter is used only very rarely. Conditions in each case are satisfactory.

6 Butcher's shops and 3 mobile meat shops are open in the district and each is inspected regularly.

All butchers' meat slaughtered in the District during the year was inspected. Details are as follows:—

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Goats
Number killed (if known)	195	121	309	465	929	47
Number inspected	195	121	309	465	929	47
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	7	3	3	4	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	13	—	1	15	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B. and cysticerci	2.05	16.6	0.97	0.86	2.16	—
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	1	—	—	5	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	1.5	0.83	—	—	0.54	—
<i>Cysticercosis</i>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

The total weight of meat and offal condemned was 5722 lbs.

FOOD INSPECTION

The following food has been condemned as unfit for human consumption: —

18	lbs.	Corned Mutton
78½	lbs.	Corned Beef
11	lbs.	Corned Mutton
7	lbs.	Stewed Steak
8¼	lbs.	Pork Luncheon Meat.
144	lbs.	Corned Beef and Mutton

WATER SUPPLIES

A piped supply of water is available in all parishes. In each case a borehole is the source of supply. There are 6 separate schemes, but these have been linked so that a deficiency at one bore may be augmented from another.

46 samples of water were taken from the various sources and were found to be of high bacteriological standard.

Chemical analysis of the water from Brightwalton, Blewbury, Childrey, Warren and West Hendred Pumping Stations, showed it to be 'without odour and of satisfactory taste'. It is of good chemical purity and quite satisfactory for a public supply.

Parish	Acres	Pop.	No. of Properties		No. of Properties connected to water mains		Sew'age
			Council	Private	Council	Private	
Ardington	2693	430	—	131	—	74	Yes
E. Challow	1657	735	147	118	147	102	Yes
W. Challow	1070	180	8	40	8	35	Yes
Childrey	2929	485	42	107	42	112	Yes
Denchworth	1041	180	12	42	12	36	
Goosey	946	120	8	30	8	22	
Grove	2513	1460	76	284	76	212	Yes
E. Hanney	2200	510	20	126	20	122	
W. Hanney	1333	380	20	86	20	83	
E. Hendred	3198	1140	58	308	58	303	Yes
W. Hendred	2002	330	29	73	29	64	
L. Regis	2155	485	42	106	42	104	Yes
L. Bassett	1631	130	12	40	12	40	*
Lockinge	3763	250	—	82	—	68	Yes
Sparsholt	3329	260	22	67	22	62	*
Aldworth	1886	200	12	56	12	12	*
Beedon	2096	320	8	103	8	104	*
Blewbury	4246	870	55	239	55	208	*
Brightwalton	2054	280	14	85	14	71	*
Catmore	710	50	—	17	—	—	
Chaddleworth	3400	450	41	100	41	94	*
Chilton	1448	700	22	178	18	150	Yes
Compton	3803	985	49	243	49	191	Yes
Farnborough	1886	110	4	33	4	26	
Fawley	2190	160	8	41	8	30	
H. Norris	4479	790	79	187	79	89	*
Hermitage	1482	530	8	174	8	95	*
Harwell	2503	1810	68	406	68	404	Yes
E. Ilsley	3017	450	22	103	22	60	
W. Ilsley	3037	270	8	85	8	72	
Peasemore	2049	190	2	57	2	26	
Upton	1413	250	16	67	16	41	
Totals	74181	15380	912	3814	912	3112	

* Small disposal works in existence for Council Houses only.

Number of dwelling houses connected to mains	4024
Population connected to water mains (approx.)	12810
Number of dwelling houses supplied by S/pipes (approx.)	120
Population supplied by S/pipes (Est.)	600

An extension of the water main along the Ridgeway is in progress from near the Wantage/Lambourn Road in a Westerly direction to the Rural District Boundary with Faringdon.

Tenders have been invited for the provision of a piped water supply, from the Council's water main at Compton, for the Parish of Aldworth.

SEWERAGE

The East and West Hanney sewerage scheme has been completed during the year.

Tenders have been invited for improvements to the Harwell sewerage system.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

(1) REFUSE COLLECTION

2213 tons of refuse were collected and disposed of at the refuse tip at East Ilsley and Farnborough. This represents an increase of 11.2% over the previous year's collection.

The refuse tip at Upton was not used during the year.

Difficulties were encountered in the negotiations for the use of disposal sites at Hermitage and Childrey; consequently, most of the refuse was taken to East Ilsley, where the owners had requested that the tip be handed back as soon as possible. This tip was practically full at the end of the year.

A kerbside collection of refuse is made fortnightly throughout the district, with one housing estate near Wantage collected weekly.

Some dislocation of the time-table took place at holiday times and during periods of sickness among the employees, but this is unavoidable while the men and vehicles are working to the limit of their capacity.

Location of Refuse Tips: —

Upton,
East Ilsley,
Farnborough.

(2) CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE

This service was commenced in February, when the new vehicle was delivered.

All sewage tanks serving Council Houses are emptied once every month while cesspools are emptied once every two months. In addition, the vehicle is available for private work. The charge

for this work during the year was 35/- per load, with reductions for subsequent loads, disposal facilities and regular clearance.

The following figures relate to the period now under review: —

Number of emptyings of Council sewage tanks	131
Number of emptyings of Council cesspools	278
Number of emptyings of Private tanks and cesspools	284
Amount due to the Council	£690 1s. 6d.
Number of gallons of sewerage pumped	852,400

RODENT CONTROL

During the year it was found possible to carry out two complete surveys of all the villages in the district. The number of complaints and infestations were again reduced in number compared with the previous year.

Number of complaints received	68
Number of infestations	361

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

At the beginning of the year improvements were carried out to the site at Cane Lane, Grove, and a licence was issued for its use as a site for 25 Caravans.

The sites at Harwell and Blewbury were also in use throughout the year. In addition there were 53 licences under the Public Health Act 1936, sec. 269, permitting the stationing and use of moveable dwellings in force for all or part of the year.

HOUSING

During the year the selection of tenants for new Council Houses again formed an important part of the work of the Public Health Department.

New Council Houses were built and occupied as follows: —

East Challow	—	12
Harwell	—	24
East Hendred	—	12
Hermitage	—	1

During the year the number of occupied hutments was reduced from 83 to 65.

The Council's slum clearance scheme was commenced during the year. Families were re-housed from unfit houses as follows: —

Harwell	—	6
West Hendred	—	2
East Hendred	—	4
Aldworth	—	1
East Hanney	—	2
Grove	—	1
East Ilsley	—	1

Houses in the following parishes were demolished during the year: —

Blewbury	—	1
East Hendred	—	1
Letcombe Bassett	—	3
East Hanney	—	1
Harwell	—	3

Owners of property throughout the area have been encouraged to make improvements with the aid of a grant under the Housing Act 1949. 82 properties were improved in this way during the year.

SUMMARY OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK DURING THE YEAR 1956

Number of different premises visited	2369
Number of inspections made	3218
Number of complaints received	149
Number of defects or nuisances discovered	125
Number of notices: Informal	39
Statutory	1
Number of prosecutions	Nil
Number of nuisances abated	
As to privies and W.C.'s, sink wastes, etc.	8
As to drains and cesspools	14
As to pigs and other animals	2
As to deficient or impure water	3
As to unclean houses	2
As to polluted ditches and streams	4
As to insanitary accumulations and deposits	6
As to other defects or nuisances	32
Number of premises disinfected	57
Number of water samples for analysis (Public)	46
(Private)	15
Number of wells closed	Nil
Number of wells cleansed, repaired or deepened	2
Number of new wells sunk	Nil
Number of new houses connected to water mains	129
Number of water certificates granted (Rural District only)	Nil
Number of seizures or surrenders of unsound or diseased food	61
Number of conservancy closets replaced by W.C.'s	17
Canal boats on register	Nil
Number of slaughter houses on register	4
Visits	468
Piggeries: Number of inspections	7
Number of retail dairies in district	10
Number of inspections	37

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS

	Number on Register	———— Inspections	Number of Written notices	———— Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced	15	4	—	—
(ii) Factories not in- cluded in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	48	26	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	6	2	—	—
Total	69	32	—	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

	Number of cases in which defects were found		Referred		No. of cases in which prosecut'ns instituted
	Found	Remedied	To HM Inspector	By HM Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2	2	—	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

There are 3 workers engaged on the making of Wearing Apparel.

